

State Senator **Bruce Patterson** P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909-7536

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### SENATE WORKS TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND CREATE NEW JOBS

Michigan currently is experiencing an unacceptably high unemployment rate. The livelihoods of our citizens are at stake, and the legislature is working hard to protect jobs and invest in the future of this great state. The following are some of the initiatives the Senate has been working on to responsibly and effectively promote job growth and economic prosperity in Michigan:

**ELIMINATE TAXES ON NEW JOBS,** thereby increasing the hiring of new employees and creating new jobs in the private sector. Currently businesses are taxed more when they hire new workers.

**CUT TAXES ON SMALL BUSINESSES TO CREATE NEW JOBS, qualifying** more businesses for the Single Business Tax Small Business Credit.

#### **ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT IN JOB TRAINING THROUGH TAX CREDITS** which will allow working adults to further their educations and

improve their work skills

**ELIMINATE GOVERNMENT RED TAPE** that threatens jobs.

RELIEVE THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN RURAL MICHIGAN and boost the tourism industry in the region.

#### CREATE TAX INCENTIVES FOR MICHIGAN-BASED TECHNOLOGY FIRMS.

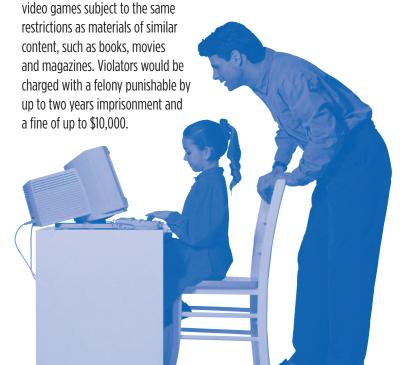
Offering tax rebates to "angel investors" who provide initial startups for new high technology firms will give these entrepreneurs the capital needed to fund new ventures and create jobs.

**PROMOTE TRAVEL AND TOURISM IN THE MIDWEST** by creating an agreement with other states to create a multi-state recreational pass program known as The Great Lakes Recreational Pass.

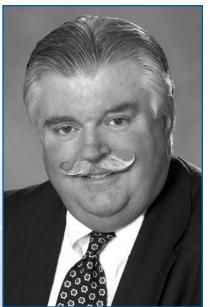
## SENATE TAKES ACTION TO SHIELD CHILDREN FROM VIOLENT AND SEXUALLY **EXPLICIT VIDEO GAMES**

necently the Senate passed legislation aimed at preventing youth from buying or renting violent or sexually explicit video games. The popularity and abundance of video games on the market today is making it increasingly difficult to monitor the types of programming, publications, and other various media to which our children are being exposed; this bill is designed to ease that burden on parents and quardians and allow them to make informed decisions as to whether or not a video game is appropriate for their child.

Senate Bill 416 would prohibit the sale or rental of ultra violent video games to any person under the age of 17, and make sexually explicit







#### SERVING THE 7<sup>™</sup> DISTRICT

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Dear Neighbors and Constituents:

For over six years it has been my honor and privilege to hold office, serve you, and get you the results you deserve. My record is there for all to see:

- Perfect attendance- 580 Session days scheduled and 580 days actually attended Session; the only state legislator with such a record, out of more than 230 elected to serve during the period 1999-2005, to date.
- An excellent voting record overall- 6.406 Record Roll Call Votes taken and only nine Record Roll Call Votes I missed since becoming your Legislator (I was consulting Gov. Engler during six of those).
- Perfect attendance and perfect voting record- during my entire Senate career, January 2003 June 2005.
- Chosen as "Legislator of the Year" eight times! Honored by groups with interests as diverse as the Michigan Nurses Association, the American Institute of Architects, the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Manufacturers Association.

From these facts alone, I hope you can tell I take my Oath of Office responsibilities seriously. I was elected to work for you. It seems obvious that the best way to accomplish that task is by taking my place in the Capitol's Senate chamber, studying the issues, making the tough decisions, and casting informed votes.

The 52 laws I have authored were developed from Town Hall meetings with you, my Constituents, and from listening to the everyday problems you confront and seek my help in fixing. I work to get you results. I have chosen to relate these facts because they represent my 'Report Card'.

Inasmuch as I feel responsible to you, my Constituents, I believe you have the right to know how I have treated the opportunity you have afforded me. While you may not have agreed with every position that I have taken on every single issue faced, I want you to know that I have sincerely tried my best to do the job you entrusted to me.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you and our great state of Michigan.

State Senator

## PATTERSON INTRODUCES SAFE PATIENT CARE LEGISLATION

M ichigan's nurses are doing wonderful work despite the current nursing shortage. Unfortunately, due to this shortage, too many health care facilities demand excessive overtime from nurses. This has created overworked, exhausted nurses, which, in turn, has created an unhealthy health care system. Liability and death-costs caused by the risk of medical care mistakes have been a factor in dramatically increasing health care costs to families.

As a longtime friend of Michigan's nurses, Senator Patterson introduced SB 169 that, if passed, would prohibit a hospital from using mandatory overtime as a staffing strategy in the delivery of safe patient care. Health care facilities would be required to make a careful analysis of staff loads and create an acuity and scheduling system to avoid overloading staff. SB 169 is currently housed in the Senate Health Policy Committee.

Action must be taken now to help nurses. They truly deserve the public's support. By relieving some of their stress from excessive overtime, everyone will be helped.

## LEGISLATION HELPS FIA TO INCREASE CHILD SUPPORT ARREARAGE COLLECTION

Public Act 483 of 2004, sponsored by Senator Patterson, and Public Acts 481, 482, and 484 of 2004, will assist the Department of Human Services (DHS) in increasing child support collections on arrearages from child support obligors by enhancing the administrative lien process to allow the Office of Child Support to more efficiently place liens on worker's compensation and certain insurance claims. Specifically, PA 483 amends the Support and Parenting Time Enforcement Act to require that DHS notify the Child Support Lien Network (CSLN) when an individual who has been ordered to pay child support accrues an arrearage that is more than two months worth of child support payments.

CSLN, a national child support information clearinghouse, contracts with 17 other states to identify and locate persons with child support arrearages who have insurance and worker's compensation claims.

If the identifying information matches a current claim, CSLN will forward the information to DHS so a lien may be placed on the claim.

When a non-custodial parent fails or refuses to pay child support, it hurts their children. This legislation will improve the office of child support's ability to find and collect money to satisfy arrearages.

# SENATOR PATTERSON LEADER FOR PERSONAL HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS LEGISLATION

Y early, \$2 Trillion is spent on health coverage in the USA, or, 15 percent of the Gross National Product. Physician liability insurance premiums and insurance industry-related paperwork have been instrumental in driving up the cost of medical care.

As Vice-Chair of the Senate Health Policy Committee, Senator Patterson has been working, along with other interested people, to develop a legislative health care package that focuses on Personal Health Savings Accounts (HSA) to assure health care for any unexpected major need.

Anyone who has a qualified high-deductible health plan (HDHP) that meets federal government requirements may open an HSA, which was created by the federal government in 2003 as a way to save money exclusively for payment of medical expenses not compensated for by insurance. Money deposited in an HSA can be deducted from taxable income and contributions may gain interest or dividends.

Two bills introduced by Senator Patterson, Senate Bills 197 & 198, would provide additional incentives by allowing for a Single Business Tax (SBT) credit and a Income Tax credit for contributions to a HSA.

 SB 197 would allow taxpayers to claim an income tax credit equal to their contributions to a HSA;

 SB 198 would allow a small business to claim an SBT credit equal to the contributions made to a HSA on behalf of the business or its employees.

Both of these bills are currently being discussed in the Senate Health Policy Committee.

It is possible to reduce the amount of administrative overhead and unnecessary doctor-ordered testing by putting the power for health care where it belongs, in the hands of the individual health care consumer.

# LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE 2005

VATED 2

**YOUR THOUGHTS ARE IMPORTANT!** PLEASE FILL OUT, CLIP AND RETURN TO:

Senator Bruce Patterson, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Or take this survey online at www.senate.michigan.gov/patterson

HEALTH CARE	VUIEKI	VUIER Z
Do you favor creating a new tax credit for long term health care savings accounts?	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Should the state stop taxing job providers for the health care benefits they provide to their employees?	□ Yes □ No	□ Yes □ No
Should small businesses be given a tax break for providing health insurance to their employees?	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Would you support legislation that would allow taxpayers to deduct the cost of private health insurance premiums from their state income tax?	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Should the state create a program to give free life-saving prescription drugs to people without health insurance?	☐ Yes ☐ No	□ Yes □ No
ECONOMY		
Should the state of Michigan give tax cuts and financial incentives to new start-up companies that locate in Michigan?	□ Yes □ No	□ Yes □ No
Should the state of Michigan give tax cuts and financial incentives to companies who create more jobs in their own local community?	□ Yes □ No	□ Yes □ No
Would you support a bond proposal to amend Michigan's constitution in order to allow state government to invest \$2 billion in tax dollars in newly formed high tech businesses? The bonds would be paid back through taxpayer dollars over the next 30 years.	□ Yes □ No	□ Yes □ No
Do you think the state should put a moratorium on any new government mandates on job providers?	□ Yes □ No	□ Yes □ No
TAXES		
Would you support raising Michigan's sales tax in order to increase K-12 school funding?	☐ Yes ☐ No	□ Yes □ No
Would you support raising Michigan's income tax in order to increase K-12 funding?	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Should there be an increase in Michigan's gasoline tax for road and bridge maintenance and repair?	□ Yes □ No	□ Yes □ No
Should Michigan's residents be required to pay a Michigan sales tax for items they purchase over the Internet?	□ Yes □ No	□ Yes □ No
MISCELLANEOUS		
Do you support legislation restricting children's access to violent and sexually-explicit	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No

